

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
Libby Asbestos Superfund Site
Thursday, June 9, 2011

Session Summary

SESSION OBJECTIVES

1. Briefly update each other.
2. Complete the Action Plan for the October 2011 Symposium
3. Affirm the calendar for the remainder of 2011.

CAG MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brad Black (County Health Officer)
Eileen Carney (TAG)
K. W. Maki (Libby Schools)
Thom (TAG)
Virginia Tribe (Facilitator)

JoElyn Bruce (TAG)
Mike Giesey (CARD)
Bill Patten (St. John's Hospital) LeRoy
Gary Swenson (Libby Volunteer Fire)

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS/OBSERVERS

Mike Cirian (EPA)
Carolyn Rutland (MDEQ)

John Podolinsky (MDEQ)

COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS

Catching up...

What's new in the Community?

- CARD fundraising will occur in July.
- The Hospital is actively pursuing HUD funding which would result in a lower interest rate than the original process. They hope to know soon.
- The School District renovation and re-location process is moving along and will be completed by the time school starts in late August. Elementary grades are moving to the Middle School building and seventh and eighth grades will move to the High School. Community reaction has been fairly positive as well as media coverage. The future of the Elementary Building is still being explored and the District continues to work with EPA. Reduction in staff due to the funding situation has been completed through attrition and individual staff decisions.
- A group that basically regulates asbestos in American will meet in Denver at the end of June.

EPA Update

- EPA resented a brief overview of the recently completed Hazard Index. It indicates that cancer risk due to the asbestos situation in Libby is down but the risk level for non-cancer illnesses is up meaning an amphibole number greater than “1”. The desired risk level for schools is being achieved overall. EPA is not able to move ahead on Operating Units 5-8 until they have more information on what those numbers mean. The ongoing risk assessment may indicate some complete cap and cover areas.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) is out regarding a community affected by asbestos and Libby is a good candidate. People working in and around soils would be of particular interests.
- Work continues on Operating Unit 4.

Moving Forward on an Action Plan for the October 2011 Symposium

Symposium Objectives

- Expand understanding of current knowledge, available expertise, and significant progress on health and environmental issues affecting those living in and around the Libby/Troy area based on science in toxicology, epidemiology, research, and clean up actions. Include an overview of the 2007 Study Review as well as gaps.
- Provide a community-driven opportunity for residents and others to hear experts present/discuss best current available science related to the Libby/Troy Superfund situation. Additionally, provide a forum opportunity where attendees can ask questions and hear responses and discussion from and among presenting experts.
- Raise the level of public communication and assist the CAG in identifying those focus areas where they might be most useful in a community sense.
- Increase public understanding, acceptance and mutual support in order to help the overall community move beyond the crisis point.

Intended Audience

- Libby/Troy area residents
- Community members with particular interests/questions affecting them
- Local government
- Local economic development interests
- Interested members of the Science community
- Any other interested party

Tasks/Action Plan Items

Presenters/Experts

- Brad continues to work on getting commitments from possible presenters/experts to participate in the Symposium. Those involved in the Research Rally will be in town and he would expect that they would stay the week. Most likely, they will include experts involved in respiratory pulmonology; epidemiology; occupational

medicine and asbestos related diseases; industrial hygiene; toxicity of amphiboles; and other pertinent topical areas. EPA would commit to 2-4 expert presenters. TSDR may be able to contribute some funding related to presenters and the involvement of the TAG Technical Advisor is expected. Some others may be able to travel as part of their job. Brad will provide an update at the July CAG meeting – although he may not be in attendance himself.

Draft Agenda

- Brad and JoElyn reported that the agenda will basically be driven by the presenters/experts who can participate. They agreed to draft a times and topic agenda for review at the July CAG meeting and hope to be able to start to “fill in the blanks” as to who will be presenting.

Where are we on Symposium logistics?

- “Sponsors” – TAG agrees to co-sponsor with CAG.
- Dates – The Symposium will follow the Research Rally and will occur October 14 and 15, 2011 with some possibility of an “introduction to the public” event on the evening of October 13.
- Although an agenda has not been completed, Mike and Bill agreed to do an early “save the date” email to the CAG mailing list.
- Location – CAG members are still exploring locations based on availability and cost. Members in attendance agreed that the Memorial Center is the best choice with the caveat that \$2000.00 is the maximum amount that could be paid with assurances that the amount could be found. They also agreed that St. John’s Hospital conference building (the old Church) is a suitable backup if available. Kirby volunteered to visit with the Kootenai Heritage Council that manages the Memorial Center, reserve it if possible based on costs and dates, and report back at the July CAG meeting. The CAG will go from there in terms of location planning.
- EPA is committed to helping with costs they can legally cover such as printing materials, media advertising, etc. Once the agenda is finalized, CAG members will work with EPA to determine and design the necessary printed material and announcement/“advertising”.
- CAG members will solidify plans for obtaining funding/donations for session breaks, lunch, etc. at the July meeting once they see the timeline and topical agenda.

Other Symposium “Pieces”...

- Carolyn volunteered to look into possibilities regarding media coverage and writers interested in this kind of research. CAG members will develop a media plan including possible “invitations” at their July meeting.
- Kirby will think about useful ways that students/teachers/families, etc., might be involved and solidify those ideas with CAG members at the July meeting once the agenda is completed.
- Mike will explore possible involvement of the Community College.

Finalizing CAG Goals for 2011

Thoughts about CAG Goals for the Remainder of 2011

- CAG members discussed and agreed that it would be useful to expand CAG meetings to include a portion of each meeting devoted to a particular topic or public question/issue. This would assist CAG in focusing their work as well as determine/provide needed information and clarification on issues from EPA, MDEQ, the County Health Board, or other pertinent parties. That portion of the meeting would be a discussion forum within the current governance framework established by the CAG. CAG members will introduce the new format sometime after the October Symposium with the initial topic or question identified out of the public Q/A discussion portion of the Symposium.
- CAG members would also like to complete the following for the remainder of 2011 and perhaps into 2012:
 - Successfully sponsoring the October Symposium in conjunction with TAG
 - Facilitating community information and discussion related to the toxicity report expected later this year
 - Facilitating community information and discussion on Institutional Controls
 - Sponsoring a “community development” discussion around where the community is going... how it’s might/is moving ahead including hearing from representative of other superfund communities where they have had success.

Where do we go from here?

- CAG will continue to meet in St. John’s Hospital Conference Room (in the old Church across from the Hospital) until it is no longer available.
- The next CAG meetings are scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on:
 - Thursday, July 21
 - Thursday, August 11
 - Thursday, September 15
 - Thursday, October 13 (evening before the Symposium)